and Micro-Finance Intermediaries (mFIs). They promote the groups, nurture and train them and then approach banks for bulk loans for onlending to the SHGs.

**Expansion of Panipat Refinery Project**

*238. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has decided to hold back the proposed refinery expansion project at Panipat as Haryana Government has refused to give the sales tax and entry tax incentives; and

(b) if not, the present status of the project with the details of the existing capacity and the capacity addition because of the IOC's proposed expansion and the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Panipat refinery expansion project was approved by the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in August, 1999. It envisages expansion of the refining capacity from the existing 6 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 12 MMTPA at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,365 crore.

Subsequently, Haryana Government has imposed Haryana Local Area Development Tax (HLADT) with effect from 5.5.2000 on various goods entering Haryana State. Impact of HLADT and sales tax incentives on project economics is under review. IOCL has taken up the matter for exemption of HLADT and provision of sales tax incentives with Haryana Government.

The process licensors for various units have been selected. Project management cunsultants have been lined up and basic engineering completed. Environmental clearance has been received on 9.4.2001.

**Telephone on Demand**

*239. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an apparent need for cost effective and reliable technologies with low operational costs and maintenance efforts for rural and remote areas;